

The Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Stewardship push crucial in lean times

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Hundreds of pastors across the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) are learning that some of the best guidance they can give their people during these days is how to manage their finances, the leader of the SBC's stewardship emphasis said.

"Because of the climate that we live in, there has never been a better time to have a conversation in church about money than right now," said Ashley Clayton, associate vice president for stewardship at the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, adding that many people in the pews are preoccupied with job security and how to pay their bills.

"Why wouldn't a pastor address that? It could be that the people in our churches wonder why their pastor never talks about money when it's clearly in the news all the time," Clayton told Baptist Press.

Church leaders must begin to see stewardship in a different light, he said, because Jesus spoke frequently about money, a tool that enables ministry. "Even as a denomination, we spend way too much time trying to divide the Cooperative Program (CP) dollars when what we should be doing is trying to grow the Cooperative Program dollars, and you do that through stewardship," Clayton said.

Most churches lack a consistent plan for helping people deal with money, he said, noting that one of the main benefits of such a plan is that it changes lives on an individual level. "The person who is worried

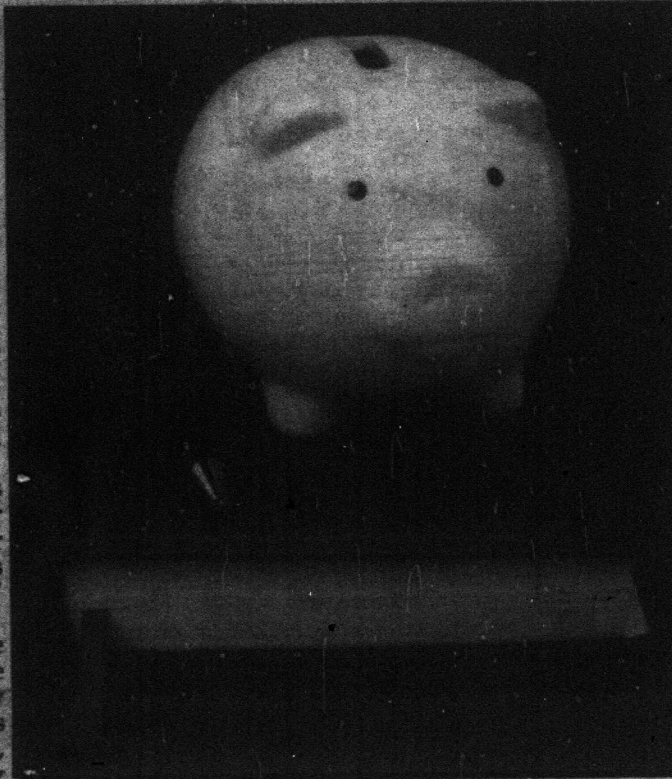
about their future, who is failing to invest in their future, who is struggling to pay their bills, who is struggling to give often can't see beyond that," Clayton said. "It colors their whole world. So a consistent stewardship plan in a church changes lives. It changed my life."

Clayton said he and his wife struggled with money for too many years but when they took the first steps toward financial freedom, it was liberating. "We still had the same

Clayton

problems and we still had debt to overcome, but you would have thought we had won the lottery. We were truly liberated because we were on the right path," he said.

Also, a consistent plan for helping people deal with money is a cultural bridge from churches to their local communities. "If you want your church to get a toe hold in your community, if you want people in your community to see your church as being relevant and a place of hope and a place of help, hang out a sign that says, 'Get out of debt here.' It's a strong cultural bridge," Clayton said.



Church planters especially should be interested in promoting stewardship, he said, because offering people help with their finances immediately will help the community perceive the church as a place that offers hope and help.

Stewardship also is relevant because handling money well is a mark of maturity in a believer's life, Clayton said. "It's a direct and outward response to God's grace in our lives. We should be compelled by God's grace to invest as many dollars in the Kingdom as we possibly can," he said. "My experience has been that it's not that believers don't want to give. It's that they cannot give."

"If it's true that unbelievers and believers alike spend \$1.26 over every dollar they earn, it's no wonder that giving has been on a decline in our denomination," Clayton said. "The point is treating money well and having a healthy approach to money translates into funding the Kingdom."

With such a strong need for stewardship education in churches today, the Executive Committee is investing in the convention's leaders through seminars, curricula, and other resources under the It's A New Day stewardship umbrella.

By year's end, more than 2,000 pastors and church leaders will have attended a one-day financial freedom seminar sponsored by churches, local associations, or state conventions in conjunction with the stewardship office at the Executive Committee.

The seminars, which run from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., present biblical principles about stewardship and offer lessons in money management, such as budget

planning and how to handle credit cards, cars, and housing expenses.

The sessions cost \$20 per person to cover materials and lunch, and spouses are encouraged to attend at no extra expense.

Starting this fall, church leaders who attend the seminars will leave at the end of the day certified by Crown Financial Ministries to teach the 10-week Life Group Study at their churches.

Clayton noted that the Executive Committee has a goal of offering the one-day seminars at each of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. In April, more than 300 students and their spouses attended a seminar at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, and another is scheduled for September at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Cooperative Program dollars are being used so that students can attend the seminars free of charge. "We think this is a great investment in the leaders of our convention. We're aware that most of our seminary graduates are leaving seminary and going to their first church with a large amount of

credit card and student loan debt, and in many cases more than they would be able to fund over a long period of time," Clayton said.

"This investment of CP dollars is an attempt to give a better foundation on a personal level for these pastors to begin their ministries."

Also, the Executive Committee has released recently Volume 2 in the It's A New Day curriculum series. Whereas the first volume, developed by Crown, involved a fee for Sunday School lessons, this volume is completely free and includes all new material.

Available for download are four weeks of sermon videos, sermon notes, listening guides, PowerPoint slides, and Bible study lessons.

The lessons include teachers' guides for children, youth, and adults so that the entire church can learn about stewardship together.

Another resource the stewardship office is offering is a video series called God Provides, produced by Crown. Six theater-quality short films and a printed companion guide use stirring accounts and parables from the Bible to show how God meets the needs of His people. The films can be used for individual or group study in a variety of ways.

For more information on the It's A New Day program and stewardship in Mississippi, contact the Stewardship Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3347 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 347. E-mail: srobinson@mbcb.org. Web site: <http://www.sbc.net/newday/mississippi>.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
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Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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Church violence: a growing reality

In less than a week, Wedgwood Church in Ft. Worth will observe a sad anniversary. On September 15, 1999, Larry Gene Ashbrook stepped into the church's sanctuary and killed seven people before sitting down a pew and turning his gun on himself. Seven other people were wounded but survived. Ten years later, there is a sense of closure over the tragedy, but the memories are still raw.

Ironically, on March 15 of this year Wedgwood Church Pastor Al Meredith helped minister to the people of First Church in Maryville, Ill., after their pastor, Fred Winters, was gunned down the week before in a brazen attack while he was preaching at the morning worship service.

There have been many more incidents of varying seriousness occurring of late in our churches. Southern Baptists are not immune to society's sicknesses. Mississippi Baptists aren't, either. In our day and

age, we are forced to contemplate crises in our churches that were unthinkable just a few years ago. It's alarming to know that so many Mississippi Baptist churches aren't prepared.

"Security is extremely misunderstood in the Christian community. Christian leaders really need to understand that incidents like this could happen in any congregation," says Jeffrey Hawkins, founder and executive director of the Christian Security Network in Cincinnati, Oh. He estimates that more than 75% of America's churches have no

security plan in place, should such an emergency occur.

The Christian Security Network is a national organization dedicated to the advancement of security, safety, and emergency planning for Christian churches, schools, ministries, and missionaries, according to information on the organization's web site.

"Growing up in Chicago, the church was my safe haven, a place to get away from problems on the streets and gangs," Hawkins recalls. "The church was respected, and no one would think to go in and commit a violent act or steal from the church. The doors used to be left unlocked."

"That can't happen anywhere these days. Churches are treated by the criminals no differently than any other buildings. My old church is now locked tight."

"The church is seen as a soft target and one of opportunity... no different than any other building: It has persons they can harm and property they can steal."

The major emphasis in church security in recent years has been the preschool and children's departments. It's reassuring to see all the steps churches have taken to protect the children in their care from pedophiles and the like, but danger lurks all through the church.

Hawkins' organization has documented seven killings so far this year in American churches. That's chilling.

"Offices, government buildings, malls, and so on have all stepped up security because of the increased risk, but churches have not. Thus they remain a vulnerable, predictable, unsecured target," he points out.

What can Mississippi Baptist churches do to prepare for these threats?

"Become aware, become educated, and then prepare," Hawkins says. "The first step is a risk assessment to determine what are their particular risks and threats. Even though all churches and ministries share the same base-level risks, how they should protect themselves and plan for emergencies should be different."

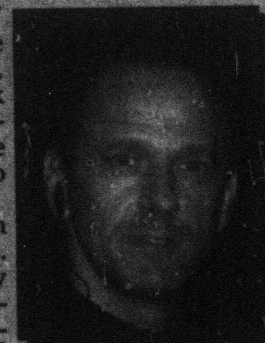
"The risk assessment looks at everything from internal controls to security measures to emergency plans — it is an all-encompassing evaluation from which to build security and emergency plans."

Next, churches can talk with local law enforcement officials, local private consultants, and organizations like the Christian Security Network to begin putting together a plan based on the risk assessment.

It is also very important to consult with the church's legal counsel before proceeding with implementation of any church security plan.

Mississippi's Baptist churches, from the smallest country churches to the largest city churches, must initiate a top-to-bottom review right away. It may be burdensome, but church violence is a growing reality everywhere.

Have a plan in place. Like a good insurance policy, it's too late to get one after tragedy strikes.



Hawkins

GUEST OPINION:

The wrong prayer, the wrong message

By Paul Brewster
Madison, In.



Pastor Steven Anderson of the Faithful Word Baptist Church in Tempe, Az., recently made the news by preaching a vitriolic message aimed at U.S. President Barack Obama. According to a Fox News story, the sermon was bluntly titled, Why I Hate Barack Obama, and revealed Anderson's deepest desire for the President: "I'm gonna pray that he dies and goes to hell when I go to bed tonight. That's what I'm gonna pray."

Given a chance to speak with reporters and perhaps retract these hate-filled words, the pastor instead retrenched in his position, telling a local television station: "I hope that God strikes Barack Obama with brain cancer so he can die like Ted Kennedy and I hope it happens today."

All Christians should be revolted at this pastor's message and quickly repudiate the spirit it betrays. I believe several comments are in order.

• First, pastor Anderson's church is an independent Baptist church, affiliated with no denomination. The church website reveals that it is steeped in many of the things that are sadly typical of too many churches in the independent Baptist church movement, including various expressions of legalism and some dubious ministerial emphases. A large core of shared beliefs exists between Southern and independent Baptists, but

we need to clarify that we have no affiliation with or sympathy for such views as were expressed about the president.

• Second, many biblically oriented Christians from a variety of denominational backgrounds would readily agree that certain positions (such as abortion) advocated by President Obama are reprehensible. Yet any clear-thinking Christian can see that hating those who oppose our point of view does nothing to further the pro-life cause. In fact, quite the opposite is true.

Pastor Anderson would do well to go back and study Luke 9:51-56. In that passage, two of Jesus' disciples were zealous to call down fire from Heaven against those who set themselves against Christ. The Lord's rebuke to them is appropriate in this case as well: "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to

destroy men's lives, but to save them." (Luke 9:55b-56).

• Third, I shuddered when I read pastor Anderson's prayer that President Obama would die and go to hell. According to the pastor's church website, he prides himself on his commitment to soul-winning and on retaining a robust doctrine of hell — but of all people, soul-winners should live to see men delivered from judgment and not to condemn men to it.

As one who believes I have escaped the wrath of God for my sins only because of the grace of God available by faith in Christ, I can take no delight in the thought of others who might perish. Beyond this, to think that we are in the position of pronouncing judgment over souls is to usurp authority that has not been delegated to us in this life. We are always called to warn people of the awful reali-

ty of hell, but with humility, tears, and aching hearts.

Many Southern Baptists are not likely to be counted as President Obama's greatest political supporters, barring a change in his worldview, values, and policies — but we dare not fail to extend to him the love and compassion of Christ.

Pastor Anderson's ill-intended prayers for the president's destruction have prompted me to reevaluate my own faithfulness to carry out what is a clear biblical mandate: "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

In short, our prayers for the president must be directed for his ultimate spiritual good, not his condemnation. None of us are able to discern the heart condition of another person with accuracy but when we do intercede for others, we are to pray compassionately for their spiritual advancement, not the consignment of souls to hell.

Brewster is pastor of Ridge Church in Madison, In. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Land: way paved for abortions, euthanasia

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Christians must defend the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land said in a chapel message at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

That includes combating government policies assaulting the sanctity of life, said the president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, making specific reference to legislation backed by U.S. President Barack Obama's administration titled America's Affordable Health Choices Act, H.R. 3200.

The health care bill permits government-funded abortions and could pave the way for euthanasia, Land stated. He also decried a federal manual for military veterans that he said "focuses on death."

Drawing from Matthew 4:1-11, Land said Satan seeks to entice people toward evil and opposes the intrinsic value God has placed on the life of a human.

"It is sometimes easy for us to forget that the world is not a good world," Land said in his message on August 27. "It is not a neutral world. It is a world that is racked with spiritual warfare."

Land quoted Article Three of the Baptist Faith and Message, a statement of generally held convictions in the Southern Baptist Convention. The article addresses the Bible's view on man as "the special creation of God, made in His own image."

The article concludes: "The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love."

Land described human beings as "different from any other part of creation, because it is human beings who are designed and created in the image of God. So, there are some things that must never be done to a human being. Our civilization is based upon that founding belief."

Land said America's founding fathers operated under the presupposition that human beings are special, guaranteeing in the nation's founding documents that men have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

"If you are a human being, you have the right to life," Land said. "That is the sanctity of life ethic upon which Western civilizations and the civilization of the United States have been based." He noted, "It's been under serious challenge throughout most of the 20th century by a so-called quality of life ethic."

Land cited Your Life, Your Choices, an advice manual published by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs during former U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration that veterans have derisively nicknamed The Death Book.

The manual, which was recalled by President George W. Bush's administration but reinstated under President Obama, instructs veterans how to prepare a living will.

"The book fosters dark thoughts about a difficult life somehow being less of a life," Land said. "On page 21, the death book poses questions to veterans on which they are to answer whether life was 'difficult but acceptable,' 'worth living but just barely' or 'not worth living.' The most positive choice is 'difficult but acceptable.'"

"I thought about many words to describe this book — atrocious,



DEFENDING LIFE — Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, assesses proposed health care legislation in a chapel service at Southwestern Seminary. (BP photo)

outrageous, disgusting, immoral, unethical, wrong, pernicious — but as I spun the wheel on my moral compass, I kept coming back to the same word: evil. To give this book to any fellow human being is evil, and your tax money paid for it and is paying for it. There's no attempt to ask people, 'What would it take for you to want to live?' Instead, the book focuses on death."

The Veterans Affairs website reports an online version of Your Life, Your Choices will be released next spring.

Voicing concern about the public health plan associated with H.R. 3200, Land said while abortions are not listed as an essential benefit, they are allowed under the benefits. "If abortion is not specifically excluded, it's covered," Land said. "That means that you will have, for the first time since the passing of the Hyde Amendment (that prohibited the use of federal tax dollars for abortions), not only abortion on demand, but you being forced to pay for the abortions with your tax money."

Land noted the bill also includes eight percent revenue

penalties for companies with group health insurance plans and a 2.5% income tax increase for individuals with private plans that do not provide for abortions.

"Baby boomers have killed their unborn babies in record numbers — one out of every three babies conceived — because they considered them too embarrassing, too expensive, too ill, or too inconvenient," Land said, "but unless we turn this tide of death around, Boomers, Busters, and Millennials will be allowed and assisted in dying before their natural time because the government has made the decision that they are too expensive, too embarrassing, too ill, or too inconvenient."

Land advised Christians to pray for God to change the hearts and minds of lawmakers, and he encouraged Christians to inform family and friends about the proposed legislation. Individuals must make it clear they want the government to promote a sanctity of life ethic rather than a quality of life ethic, he said.

Looking back

10 years ago

The Washington bureau chief of Baptist Press is denied congressional press credentials after several years of effort to renew the longstanding privilege.

20 years ago

Henry Blackaby of the Home Mission Board and T.W. Hunt of the Sunday School Board believe that America is on the front end of a major spiritual awakening. Both men spent part of the summer leading prayer seminars at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Conference Centers.

50 years ago

Fellowship Church, recently organized in Jackson, calls its first pastor. Perry Herring will come from Hayti, Missouri. The church is currently meeting in the Leavell Woods community house.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Pastor killed

TOCCOA, Ga. (BP) — A Georgia Baptist pastor was shot and killed by undercover police officers on September 2, apparently in relation to a drug sting. Jonathan Ayers, 29, pastor of Shoal Creek Church in Lavonia, Ga., was not the target of the sting. Stephens County Sheriff Randy Shirley told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper. Early reports were that Ayers dropped off the sting suspect in downtown Toccoa and that two undercover agents followed him and attempted to question him. Ayers used an ATM at a Shell convenience store around 2:30 p.m. and the officers, who were in plain clothes, jumped out of a moving vehicle as Ayers was backing out of the parking lot. The agents reportedly identified themselves and drew their weapons, but the pastor apparently tried to avoid them, putting his car in reverse and striking one of the agents as he backed out. Officers fired, hitting Ayers in the chest. The officers said they did not know who he was but wanted to question him about the woman, who was suspected of cocaine possession and distribution, according to media reports. Ayers drove off before losing control of the vehicle a block away and hitting a telephone pole. He was taken to a hospital, where he died an hour later. Ayers and his wife Abby were expecting their first child. A search of Ayers' car turned up no drugs but the woman was arrested on cocaine charges, according to Examiner.com. The injured officer was treated and released at a local hospital, according to the Journal-Constitution.

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By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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TZNR PVQLRRS: PVQL-
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Clue: T = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Eleven: Twenty-six

DIFFICULTY IN DOING RIGHT

I spent the night in one of our fine Mississippi towns and got up early the next morning to go walking. I walked downtown and, around trying to get my time in, and having been in this community a number of times through the years, I knew that about half if not more of the streets downtown were one-way streets. That is not an unusual thing in Mississippi downtowns, including our Capitol city. I was not paying particular attention to the one way street situation since I did not think it applied to walking. I came upon an intersection and saw a lady who apparently was out doing her morning walk standing on another corner as I stopped to watch a truck make a turn. He had stopped at a four-way stop and then made a right-hand turn on a one-way street. The lady on the other corner from me began to scream and yell at the fellow who had made the turn. He hollered, "One-way! This is a one-way street!" The fellow in the truck hit his brakes and then slowly moved on. No doubt, he was trying to get his mind clear because he was confused, baffled, and maybe a little dazed by her screaming at him.

The truth was that he was going one way, and he was going in the direction he was supposed to be going. He stuck his hand out of the window and pointed at a one-way sign going in the direction that he was traveling and the screaming walker on the other corner could not or would not say anything. She stood there with a blank look realizing that she was advising him to go the wrong way on a one-way street. My immediate thought was, "Bless your heart, fellow. You got yelled at for doing the right thing."

How amazing! Here is a fellow who was trying to do the right thing, go down the right

road as he was going about his work at about six o'clock in the morning, and somebody standing on the corner yells at him as though he is doing wrong. As I think about it, it is not just a word to him but to all of us. You can do good and get yelled at. Jesus put it in these words in the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are you when men shall revile you, persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven; so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matt. 5:11-12). Doing good does not mean that everybody is going to praise you or even recognize that you are doing good. On the other hand and equally as amazing to me is the fact that you can do wrong and oftentimes nobody will say anything.

It may be that no one illustrates this fact more realistically than the mighty man Samson does. Everyone saw him playing around with sin. It seemed to be so cute, so manageable, and yet I wonder how many people recognized Brother Samson needed to back off because he was playing with fire. Nobody said anything. He made up cute little riddles, spent more and more time with Delilah, and tricked her as she tried to trick him. Soon he was captured in the web of his own deceitfulness. No doubt he wondered a thousand times, "How

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did I get here, how do I get out, and why oh why did somebody not stop me?" For many of us, that is the most difficult thing that you can ever do. You see someone going the wrong direction, acting the wrong way, living the wrong way, being the wrong thing, and you wonder how do you step in and help? It is called intervention, and it is truly a difficult thing to know when, where, and how much to interfere or intervene in a person's life.

People say things like, "Well, I'm not going to get in his business. That's not my business. He's a grown boy, and he can make up his own mind." All of those things by some measure are true, so what in the world is a fellow to do? It is hard to stay on the straight and narrow path because sometimes when you are doing good, you get yelled at and when you are doing bad there is only silence.

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words from God in the Proverbs. In Proverbs 3:5-6 it says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thy own understanding and in all of thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." Make sure that you check with the Lord, get on the right path, and just stay there. You can live at that place in peace, prosperity, and in the will of God.

Years ago, I preached on a subject that was socially relevant but not popular. Afterwards a man asked me, "What if everybody in the church disagreed with your position on that subject? What would you think?" I did not want to be arrogant, but I did know what the Scripture clearly taught, and I simply smiled and said, "Well, I'm sorry; they would just be wrong!" Not everything in life is that easy to determine whether it is right or wrong, black or white, daylight or dark. While not everything is that way, a lot and, in fact, the vast majority of things are. Simply determine to do right if people are silent or even if they are screaming at you like you are doing wrong.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.



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HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 8, 2009

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Brothers, smart ladies and friends ... we have a big day planned at the start of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Our council will convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2009, in the Skyroom on the 4th floor.

All Mississippi bivocational/small church MINISTERS AND THEIR WIVES are invited to a **BANQUET AND DIALOGUE** at 5 p.m. We will break at 6:30 to attend the Pastors Conference at First Baptist, Jackson.

Please E-mail or call Kay McDonnell (kmcdonnell@mbcb.org or 601.292.3305; 1.800.748.1651, ext. 305) to confirm your attendance.

THERE IS NO COST FOR THE MEAL. THIS EVENT IS UNDERWRITTEN BY THE PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD.

Seminary Extension



Discover the best kept secret...

THE PASTOR/
LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

will host a breakfast for
SEMINARY EXTENSION
AND ASSOCIATIONAL
MISSIONS DIRECTORS on
Thursday, October 27,
2009, at
7 a.m. in the Baptist
Building Chapel.

WE LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING
YOU THERE!!!

Your Margaret Lackey gifts trained 237 people in literacy and language ministries this year. Encourage your church to give to the offering this Fall.



WHEREVER HE LEADS
Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION LEADER LAB

is designed for you to:

"Focus Your I's"

Strategic Leadership

Ministers of

Education

A detailed plan

enhancing your

education ministry

and managing

your ministry platform.

Tuesday, October 13

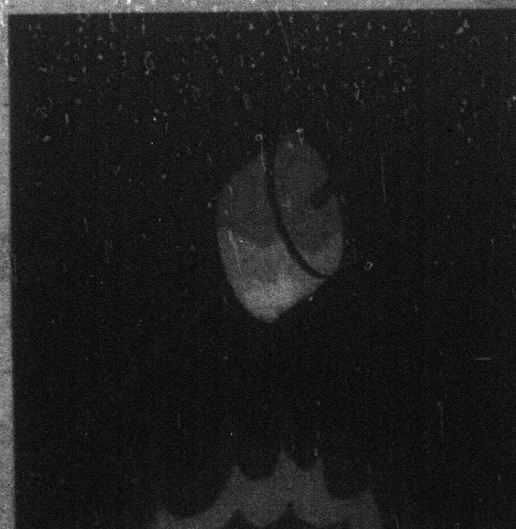
Garaywa

For more info

E-mail: cday@mbcb.org

Phone: 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291

or 601-292-3291 locally



Garaywa Fall 2009 Mother/Daughter Overnight

MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHT IS FOR MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS (GRADES 1-6).

All overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

COST: \$47 per person **DEADLINE: Two weeks prior to event or when full**

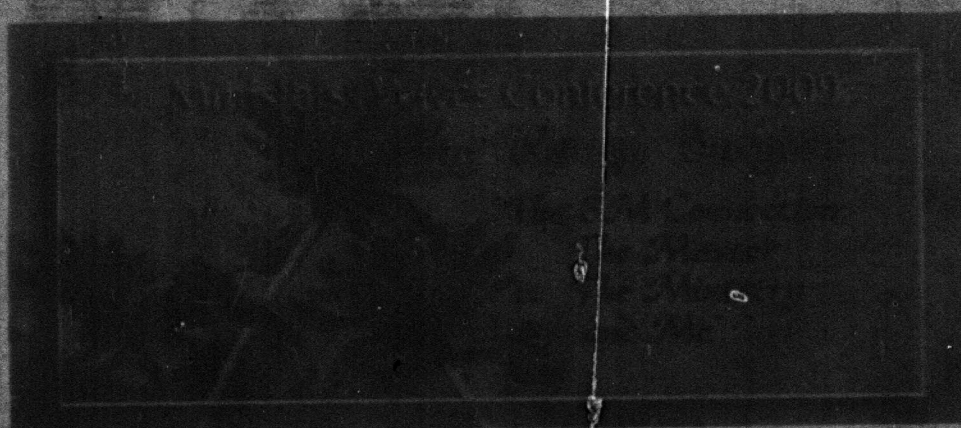
Please remember these WMU procedures:

- Please mail in your registration with payment.
- Reservations may not be made by phone.
- Groups wishing to bunk together must register together.
- Whenever possible, please send one check for the entire group.

If space is still available after the deadline date, reservations will be accepted at the cost of \$52 per person. No refunds after the deadline date.

Overnight Dates:
Oct. 2-3 and October 16-17

For a registration form, go online or call the WMU office at 601-292-3316 or e-mail kreddit@mbcb.org



Ministers' Wives Conference

Monday, October 26, 2009, 1:15 - 4:45 p.m.
First Baptist Church Chapel, Jackson

Nancy Burgess
Guest Speaker

Nancy is founder and director of Heart and Soul Connection, a national, cross-denominational lifeline ministry for ministers' wives and their families.

Registration

Preregistration is encouraged so that we may better prepare.

- Phone: 800.748.1651, ext. 305, or 601.292.3305
- E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Pastor/Leadership Development Department



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHAPLAINS' ASSOCIATION FALL TRAINING

To Provide More Effective Ministry for Professional and Volunteer Chaplains and All Interested Persons

Friday, September 18, 2009
8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, MS
COST: \$10

Last day to register - September 16, 2009

TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF: COMPASSION FATIGUE IN MINISTRY

Led by Dr. John Samb

John Samb is the Chaplaincy Evangelism Team Consultant for Vocational Healthcare and Intuitions as well as counselors in Ministry.

John Samb is originally from La Crosse, Wisconsin, but has served extensively in various locations around the world. Endorsed as a Southern Baptist Chaplain for 32 years, he has been a chaplain to the Army Reserve, Navy active duty, and hospitals. A graduate of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Chaplain Samb has also attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and done Doctor of Ministry work in San Francisco.

To register call or e-mail: 601-292-3334 or cwright@mbcb.org

The demands of student ministry pull us in many directions. Trying to balance a schedule that pulls us in all directions can be overwhelming at times. Mississippi Baptists' annual Student Minister's Retreat is a time to be refreshed and renewed.

Whether you're looking to sharpen your student ministry skills, find personal spiritual renewal, meet other student ministers from our state, or just to reconnect with your friends in student ministry - Tiak O'kheta is the place to do it. I hope you'll join us Nov. 9-11!

Ken Hall, Student Ministry Consultant MBCC

For more information: KenHall@mbcb.org or 601-292-3286

Stacy Evans
Phil Newberry
Tom Edwards
Jon Daniels

Student Minister's Retreat

November 9-11, 2009

at Tiak O'kheta, Jackson, MS

38th Annual

CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 2-3, 2009

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CORINTH, MISS.

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

PAT BROWN
SANDRA FITTS
STEPHEN GATELY
TAFFEY HALL
EVA NELL HUNTER
BEV LEAGUE
CAROLYN WALKER

SPECIAL GUEST:

T.L. Higley
Dinner Speaker

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE IS
SEPTEMBER 18

For Information: Contact Communication Services: 1-800-748-1651, ext. 378 (Miss. only),
or 601-292-3378 or E-mail: jchen@mbcb.org

2010 Baptist Doctrine Study

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Preview Study and Brunch

WAYNE VAN HORN

9 a.m. - Noon (for both studies)

MONDAY **Lauderdale Baptist**
JANUARY 18 Association Office
Marion, Mississippi
MONDAY **Sky Room, Baptist Bldg.**
JANUARY 25 515 Mississippi Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Wayne Van Horn
Dean
School of Christian Studies
Mississippi College

Pre-register
dbrashier@mbcb.org
601-292-3284
1-800-748-1651, ext. 284
online: www.mbcb.org



LifeWay Study
Course Book

2009 BIBLE DRILL CLINICS

to cover MAJOR UPDATES in Mississippi Bible Drills

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CLASSES

For leaders of: Bible Buddies (Gr 1-3), Children's Bible Drill (Gr 4-6)
Student Bible Drill (Gr 7-12)

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Monday, 9/14	Garaywa, Clinton	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 9/15	FBC, Meridian	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Thursday, 9/17	FBC, Batesville	6:30-8:00 p.m.

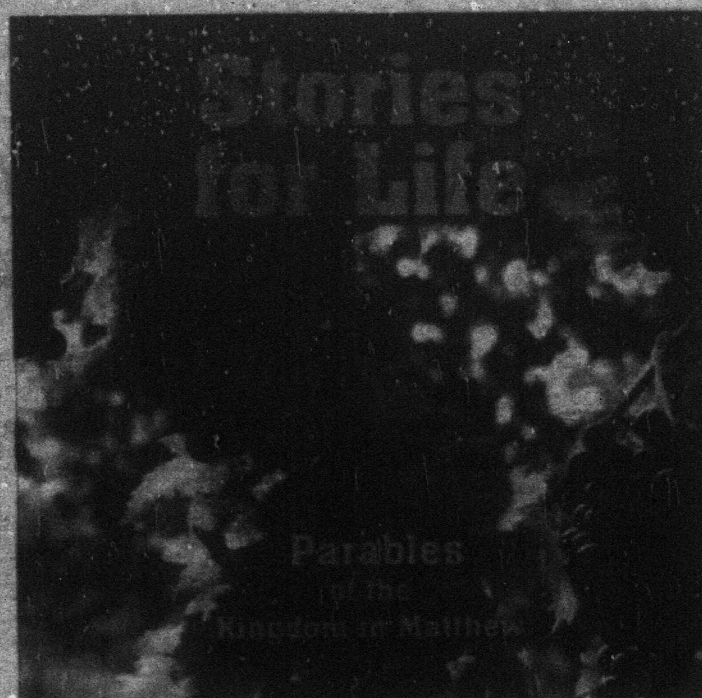
BIBLE DRILL LEADERS:

Student Bible Drill: Curt Lyles on 9/14 and 17

Student Bible Drill: Susan Lott on 9/15 - The Student leaders' clinic will cover new types of Student Drills (Quotation Drill and Key Passage Drill); the new High School Selection Tournament to select a statewide High School Winner; and new helps on or coming to www.mbcb.org

Children's Bible Drill: Don Hicks on 9/14, 15, 17 - The children's section of the clinic will cover updates for Children's Bible Drill, new helps on or coming to www.mbcb.org

For more info: Call 601-292-3287 or E-mail dhicks@mbcb.org



JANUARY 2010 BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINICS

TEACHING



Gene Henderson, former pastor of FBC, Brandon, and currently a transitional pastor, Chairman of Transformation Jackson and consultant for churches in the area of leadership training

Tuesday, September 15, 2009
DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND

Wednesday, September 16, 2009
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
CLINTON

Thursday, September 17, 2009
WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY
HATTIESBURG

Monday, September 21, 2009
BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
BLUE MOUNTAIN

ALL CONFERENCES

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Conference begins at 9 a.m.

Lunch will NOT be provided

No cost, but please preregister

For more information, contact Huey Dedmon at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 320; 601-292-3320;
hdedmon@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

SEPTEMBER 11-24, 2009

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3204 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts.
The whole earth is full of His glory."

Isaiah 6:3

Pray for: (1) the Open Door ministry each Thursday. This is a ministry to homeless and needy in the area of Cityview Baptist Church in Vancouver; (2) a Mississippi family living and teaching in a country in Southeast Asia. They have many opportunities to share Jesus with Muslims in their classrooms.

ANTI-GAMBLING EMPHASIS
Christian Action Commission
Pray that those who have become enslaved to gambling would come to the understanding that Jesus Christ is their means of deliverance and of a change of heart.

Pray for: (1) Church Related Vocations Banquet, William Carey University; (2) Bible Drill Clinic, Garywa; (3) English Clubs which meet in many places around the world. Pray for the missionary teachers. Ask God to bring in the children He wants to attend. May He be glorified and may they realize that Jesus is all they need.

Pray for: (1) January Bible Study Preview, Blue Mountain; (2) Muslims are celebrating Idul Fitri, today, the end of the fasting month. If successful in fasting from sun-up to sun-down the entire month, they feel that maybe their sins for the year have been forgiven and they have been returned to holiness. Pray for light that only Jesus can forgive sin.

Pray for: (1) January Bible Drill Preview, Cleveland; (2) Bible Drill Clinic, FBC, Meridian; (3) believers from Muslim background. As God works, so does Satan. "to kill, steal, and destroy." Pray that these believers would not shrink back, would maintain close fellowship with the Great Shepherd, follow Him faithfully and enjoy abundant life in Christ.

Pray for Candace Kinchen, a member of Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg as she spends the next year and a half serving in Vancouver with Cityview Baptist Church.

Pray for: (1) January Bible Study Preview, Clinton; (2) 70 men from the house church networks who came together for a time of training, fellowship, and worship in a country in Southeast Asia led by a team from Mississippi. Pray that the men who were trained will live out what they learned and train the house church networks.

SEE YOU AT THE POLE DAY
Youth Emphasis
Pray that students who publicly stand up for their faith at the pole will also walk out their faith before their friends on a daily basis. Pray for the 23 unengaged people groups on an island in Southeast Asia. Pray for churches to adopt these groups.

Pray for: (1) January Bible Study Preview, Hattiesburg; (2) Bible Drill Clinic, Batesville; (3) Muslims during this month of fasting. They cannot eat or drink from daylight to dark. No matter how hungry or thirsty they get, they want to keep the fast because they believe it will make them holy. Pray for a hunger and thirst for true righteousness.

Pray for the Church Related Vocations Banquet at Blue Mountain. Pray for students in all of our colleges to be willing to follow God's call for their life.

Pray for: (1) Special Ministries Retreat, Garywa, 11th-12th; (2) a Miss. Baptist who is considering committing at least one year to go and serve as a librarian at Yellowstone Baptist College in Billings, Montana.

A Miss. family, the Hendersons, are in language school in Costa Rica preparing for service in Peru. Pray that they will acquire the language and transition well into their ministry assignment.

Pray for: (1) Chaplains Fall Training, Jackson; (2) Macedonia Call meeting, Garywa; (3) Missionary Parents Fellowship meeting, Garywa, 14th-15th; (4) God to work in miraculous and powerful ways to reveal Himself to the lost peoples of the world.

Pray for: (1) Mississippi Missionary Fellowship, Garywa; (2) our national brothers and sisters in South Asia. Pray that their faith would be tested to 30 and that the Lord would add daily to His family.



2010 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Auditions

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2009
10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale, Miss.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2009
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Hernando Church, Hernando, Miss.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009
4:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Fairview Church, Columbus, Miss.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2009
10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

First Church, Meridian, Miss.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009
10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

William Carey University, Hattiesburg, Miss.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2009
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, Miss.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2009
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

First Church, Summit, Miss.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2009
2:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Baptist Building, Jackson, Miss.

For more information,
contact Susan Luttrell at 1-800-748-1651,
ext. 274; 601-292-3274;
sluttrell@mbcb.org

Send an MK a card!

11-4-94

MISS ALICIA MARTIN

Parents: Tom & Cynthia
Las Vegas

11-5-98

MR. CAMPBELL PUTNAM

Parents: Tracy & Genie
Central & Eastern Europe

11-8-91

MR. JACOB S. LIGHTSEY

Parents: Tim & Rebecca
Mexico

11-9-04

MISS NICOLE JOHNSON

Parents: Daron & Judy, IMB

11-15-96

MISS MARISSA BLEDSOE

Parents: David & Laurie
South America

11-19-98

MR. TAYLOR E. HODGINS

Parents: Ray & Cynthia
Eastern South America

11-26-98

MR. CHUCK MULLINS

Parents: Charles & Lynn
Western Europe

11-28-88

MISS LINDSEY PURL

Parents: John & Amy
Europe

11-30-03

MR. JOSIAH PUTNAM

Parents: Tracy & Genie
Central & Eastern
Europe

FOR SECURITY,
cards will be forwarded.
Please send all to: Child's
name, Parent's name,
MBCB
wMu MK Birthdays,
PO Box 530
Jackson MS, 39205
PLEASE NOTE: Church
members may send a pack-
age of cards together; cards
do not have to be sent
individually to the WMU.

HOUSE TOPS

Liberal Maine turns into test state

AUGUSTA, Maine (BP) — A ballot measure that would overturn Maine's same sex marriage law officially qualified for the ballot August 26, putting the state on course for a historic November vote.

It will be the first time the issue has been put on the ballot in the liberal Northeast, a region that has largely embraced the homosexual rights movement. Maine either will become the first state to affirm same sex marriage at the ballot, or the second one to legalize such unions and then reverse course (following California).

The measure is sure to capture the attention of both sides of the debate nationally, particularly being that 2009 is an off-year election with little else on ballots in other states. Several homosexual activist groups in California already have urged their members to donate to Protect Maine Equality, the group working to keep same sex marriage legal.

Maine Secretary of State Matt Dunlap said September 2 that the measure, called a People's Veto, had qualified for the ballot. Dunlap's office stopped validating signatures after 60,391 were considered legal — well more than the 55,087 required.

Stand for Marriage Maine, the official proponent of the measure, turned in roughly 100,000 signatures in late July. Involvement by the state's Protestant and Catholic churches was critical, those in the state said.

The People's Veto, if passed, would reverse a law legalizing same sex marriage signed by Democratic Gov. John Baldacci in May. It has not gone into effect and won't do so until voters have a say. The measure will be known as Question 1 on the ballot. Maine is one of but a handful of states that allow citizens to gather signatures to overturn laws.

"More than 100,000 Mainers signed petitions to do what the legislature and governor did not: allow the people of Maine to participate in the decision of legalizing homosexual marriage," Marc Mutty, Stand for Marriage Maine campaign chairman, said in a statement. "Preserving the definition of marriage as between a man and woman is far too important an issue to be left solely in the hands of elected officials, without the input, consent or, perhaps, even knowledge of Mainers."

Very little public polling has been done in the state on the issue, and none since Baldacci

signed the bill into law. A Pan Atlantic SMS Group poll of 400 Maine adults in April found that given three options, 39% supported same sex marriage, 34.5% supported same-sex civil unions, and 23% opposed all legal recognition for homosexual couples.

However, the Stand for Marriage Maine website recounts the story of the Wirthlins, a Massachusetts couple whose son and second-grade class were read a book (King King) about a prince "marrying" another prince. The school refused to give them advance notice in the future when such books were read, and the Wirthlins lost a federal lawsuit.

STAFF CHANGES

1. Don Alexander, a licensed and ordained Southern Baptist minister since 2004, is available for revivals, interims, supply, or full-time pastor in Yazoo, Madison, Hinds, Holmes, and Humphries counties. Call (601) 213-7810 or write 518 Martin Rd., Benton, MS 39040.

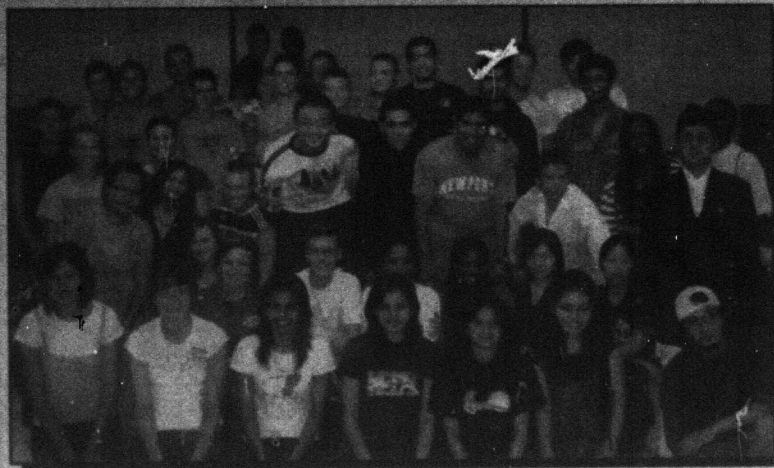
REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. North Calvary Church, Philadelphia: Revival, Sept. 13 - 16; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by fellowship lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., noon with lunch provided and 7 p.m.; Tommy Snyder, speaker; Karen Cumberland, music; Lawrence Runnels, pastor.
2. Sylvaena Church, Wesson: 111th homecoming, Sept. 13; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Cody Warren, speaker; Chris Phillips and Caleb Smith, music.
3. Robinwood Church, Saucier: Revival, Sept. 27 - 30; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Sept. 26, family fun day, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Frank Gunn, speaker; John McCall, music.
4. Friendship Church, Brookhaven: 200th anniversary, Sept. 13, services, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Randy Lewman and Talmadge Smith, speakers; Sept. 20, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wiley Reid and Jonathon Sherwin, speakers; Sept. 27, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Jimmy Houston and Howard Smith, speakers; Oct. 4, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Jim Futral and Ronnie Robinson, speakers; and Oct. 11, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. singing; Raymond Parker, speaker; Talmadge Smith, presentation of 200th year certificate.
5. Topeka Church, Jayess: Homecoming and revival, Sept. 13 - 16; Sun., Sunday School high attendance, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon singing; Mon. - Wed. services; Hal Bates, speaker; Justin Smith, music; Dale Authement, pastor; for information, call (601) 587-4195.
6. Meadowview Church, Starkville: Revival, Sept. 13 - 16; Sun., 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Kenny Digby, speaker; Gerald Simmons, music.

COLLEGE NEWS



2. Fishell



5. WCU international students

1. Mississippi College's fall enrollment of 4,874 is a new record in the school's 184-year history.
2. Mississippi College's celebration of the 150th birthday of Provine Chapel begins with a Sept. 15 concert performance featuring organist Janette Fishell. Her 7:30 p.m. program that Tuesday evening is free and open to the public.
3. The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College will host the Capital Area Student Council Workshop Nov. 11-12. Student leaders from the area's junior high schools will meet on

Wednesday and those from the high schools on Thursday. The workshop will be held at MC from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Registration deadline is October 30. School advisors interested in their Student Council attending this workshop may visit the website: www.mc.edu/academics/ce, call the Office of Continuing Education at (601) 925-3263 or email brunson@mc.edu for more information.

4. William Carey University will present the art exhibit "Walking on the Moon," by William Pittman Andrews August 31 through October 1 in the

Lucile Parker Gallery in Hattiesburg. The public is invited and admission is free to the exhibit. For more information call gallery curator Chatham Meade at (601) 318-6528. The gallery is open from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and by appointment.

5. Seventy-three international students pose for a picture following the International Student Welcome Dinner at William Carey University. The students are attending Carey representing 22 countries. They received information about the university, local churches and the city of Hattiesburg.



6. BMC Sports Logo

The students were also invited to Trading Places, a celebration of cultures and community, on September 9 from 3 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. in the Student Conference Center.

6. Sporting a new team logo and Web site, the Blue Mountain College athletics department recently introduced its new look. The Toppers' new logo is a sleeker, more colorful and more aggressive looking ram's head. BMC's new athletics Web site - www.bmcsports.com - includes links to Facebook, Twitter, RSS news feeds, a blog site, and the TransSouth Athletic Conference.
7. More than forty professional and amateur singers will honor retired music professor Josephine D'Arpa with

a concert at William Carey University September 25 at 7 p.m. "A Grand Night for Singing" will honor D'Arpa, who taught in the Winters School of Music for more than 44 years. She retired in May, 2009. Many students trained under her in choir rehearsals, voice classes, and private lessons. She also advised the Omicron Sigma Chapter of the music fraternity Delta Omicron which celebrated its 44th anniversary on the Carey campus in December 2008. A minimum donation of \$5 is requested as admission. All proceeds will go towards the Josephine D'Arpa Scholarship to support WCU music students. For more information call Susan Dickey at (601) 318-6168.

8. Mississippi College is presenting The Sound of Music. Show dates on the Clinton campus are Oct. 8-10 and Oct. 15-17 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 11 and Oct. 18, both at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for students from MC or other schools and \$15 for adults. Tickets are expected to go on sale three weeks before the show. For more information, call Linda Edwards at the MC Department of Music at (601) 925-3440.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



3. Vinzant ordination



4. Pannell recognition



5. Stronghope Church, Wesson



6. Nation recognition

1. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will host a community singing with the Martin Family Sept. 19, preceded by a dinner at 5 p.m.

2. Society Hill Church, Oakvale, will host the Ryders in concert Sept. 13, 6 p.m.

3. Phalti Church, Pachuta, held an ordination service for Gary Vinzant Aug. 16. Shown are Pat Patterson, Vinzant, Grady Crowell, and James Moseley.

4. First Church, Baldwyn, recognized Wallace Pannell and his wife Celia for 60 years in ministry. He pastored in Prentiss, Pontotoc, Union, and Tippah Counties. He is a member of First Church, Baldwyn, and teaches Sunday School. Shown are the Pannells and pastor Stanley Huddleston.

5. Stronghope Church, Wesson, held their missions recognition service Aug. 23, honoring Mission Friends, GAs, RAs, Acteens, and Youth on Mission. Shown are the participants.

6. East End Church, Columbus, honored Guy Nation, Jr., with a plaque and reception Aug. 30 recognizing 50 years of teaching Sunday School. Shown are Mac Pace, Nation, and pastor Albert Wilkerson.

7. Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto, VBS; average attendance, 97; five baptisms.

8. Dublin Church, Carson, ordained Ronald Jones and Thomas McPhail as deacons Aug. 16 and reactivated Cecil Bayles and Troy Stapleton. Shown are Jones, McPhail, Bayles, and Stapleton.

9. Arlington Church, Lincoln Association, honored Hulon and Irene Brown with a special recognition - Hulon for 46 years as deacon and Irene for church and Sunday School secretary.

10. Longview Church, Starkville, recognized their Children in Action participants Aug. 26. Shown, top row, are Kimberlyn Livingston and McKenzie Parrish; bottom row, Koby Livingston and Kayla Walker.

11. Bethel Church, Liberty, had a men's cake cookoff June 28. Front row, Jerry VanNorman, Dusty Rhodes, Jake Haygood, Chase Stutzman, and Billy Haygood; back row, Bobby Dunaway, Cris Dunaway, and Tommy Daniel.



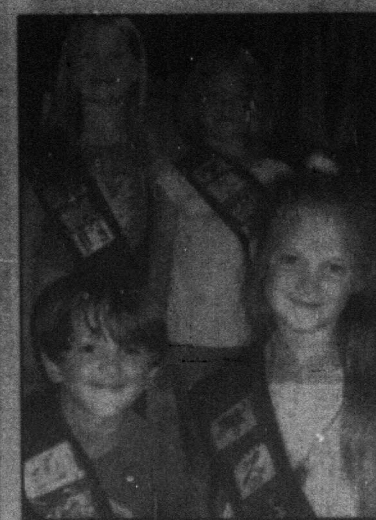
7. Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto



8. Dublin Church, Carson



9. The Browns



10. Longview Church, Starkville



11. Bethel Church, Liberty

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The People Jesus Knows

Mark 2:3-12, 15-17, 23-28

By Ken Anderson

There is an old adage that you are known by the company you keep. Parents have used this adage to warn their children not to associate with the wrong crowd. To do so could lead them to model the crowd's bad behavior. This lesson reveals Jesus associating with a motley crowd of people. Yet, Jesus was comfortable and at ease with them. This lesson challenges Christians to interact with all people in a Christ-like manner.

Mark 2:3-12

Jesus was preaching the gospel to a full house in Capernaum. Then came the sounds of four men who removed a section of the flat roof of the house and lowered a paralytic in front of Jesus. The paralytic was considered by his culture as an outcast, a sinner, and nothing more than proper-

ty. These four friends understood that by getting the paralytic to Jesus his life would be better. So strong was their faith and persistence that they overcame each barrier they faced in their quest. The Scribes, present in the house, were electrified when Christ forgave the man's sins. Jesus discerned their silent protest that "God alone could forgive sin," and of course, they were right. Yet, they got it all wrong because they failed to recognize Jesus' deity. He had authority to forgive sin and proved it by healing the paralytic. The paralytic, with no assistance, immediately took up his mat and walked away. The people present were filled with awe and praised God because they had never seen anything to compare with it.

Mark 2:15-17

After becoming a follower of Jesus, Levi gave a party at his



Anderson

home. He invited some former associates to meet his new master. The Pharisees were more than alarmed that Jesus would associate with the "wrong kind of people." After all, they were tax collectors and sinners. Sinners referred to anyone who did not practice the law of God (the Torah), according to the Pharisees' interpretation. Their interpretation was filled with their own traditions and regulations. Tax collectors were considered traitors to their country. They collected taxes for the hated Roman Empire. They took excessive liberties in taxing the people, and they became wealthy as a result. For the Pharisees both of these groups were beyond hope of being healed. Jesus responded that his very mission was to minister to these types of people. Dr. James A. Books explains, "Therefore for Jesus to refuse to associate with sinners would have been as foolish as for a doctor not to associate with the sick" (The New American Commentary, Vol. 23, p. 63).

Mark 2:23-28

Again Jesus incurred the criticism of the Pharisees. On this occasion, they complained that Jesus' disciples had failed to observe the Sabbath. As the disciples passed through another person's field, they pulled some grain on the Sabbath. This was permitted according to Deuteronomy 23:25 with the stipulation that the grains were to be plucked with the hands and not harvested with a sickle. Nevertheless, the scribes regarded this practice as reaping, which was forbidden on the Sabbath (Deuteronomy 34:21). Jesus responded by instructing the Sabbath experts with a lesson from scripture (1 Samuel 21:1-6). Here the show bread was twelve loaves of fresh bread placed weekly in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle. They symbolized the twelve tribes of Israel and Israel's unique relationship with God. At the end of the week the loaves were to be eaten exclusively by the priests (Lev. 24:9). But when King David and his companions were hungry, they ate the show bread, without being con-

demned for breaching the ceremonial law. Christ's point was that human needs trumps the letter of the ceremonial law. The Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus, was the final authority on the observance of the Sabbath.

Insight

Dr. Calvin Miller is fond of saying that "church folks are just broken people looking for broken people." Church folk do not have to look hard or far to find broken people. The challenge is to be at ease with and minister to the outcast, sinners, and undesirables. G. Campbell Morgan made this point, "... the way of the Lord is to go and sit where they sit, without looking down on them. We may run great risks if we will dare to do it. Because someone will say that we are consorting with sinning men, and that we are in moral and spiritual peril. I am afraid, however, that the church is not often criticized for this" (Walking Thru the Bible, p.6, 1990).

Ken Anderson is Transitional Pastor, Tremont First Baptist Church, Tremont.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

God Is Just

Psalm 9:1-20

By Ginger M. Caughman

"I will give thanks to the Lord." We can all sing and pray those words. But the Psalmist adds a phrase: "I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart" (v.1). Charles Spurgeon declares, "Half heart is no heart," adding, "It sometimes needs all our determination to face the foe and bless the Lord in the teeth of His enemies."

Praising and Trusting God vv. 1-8

Swiss artist Annie Vallotton did delightful line-drawings for the "Good News Translation" of the Good News Bible in Today's English Version (GNT: American Bible Society). Psalm 9:1 shows an individual greeting the day with outstretched arms as the sun comes up and the birds take flight across the softly colored hues of a morning sky. The Psalms do overlap, don't they?

Think of another hymn of praise. (See Psalms 118:24.) We can choose to rejoice in each day our Lord has made, giving us another day of life! God encourages us to look at His creation and His Word, which causes us to turn thoughts from ourselves and Praise Him!

God rules. "I will sing praise to your Name, O Most High" (v. 2). "Most High" is the name, Elyon, a title given to Yahweh (God) expressing God's transcendence and sovereignty. Praise God in all circumstances.

See a parallel Psalm where the writer appeals to God as the great Judge... "God, to Whom vengeance belongs, show Thyself!" (Psalm 94:1). As believers, we trust God to make right every injustice suffered by His people.

Turning to God vv. 9-12

God remembers! Think of



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the many times in Scripture we see the word remember. God wanted his people in the Old Testament to remember His mighty acts. He reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice as our Lord celebrated the Passover Meal/Last Supper with His disciples, reminding them to remember. On many Lord's Supper tables across Mississippi are the words, "Do This In Remembrance of Me." Show children these words and explain salvation's meaning to them (Deuteronomy 6).

Sing the old hymn (1897) with still relevant words and "Count your many blessings one by one" (Oatman/Excell) as we remember what the Lord has done! In your family time at the dinner table or at bedtime, do take time to remember the blessings of the day. Listen to each other and share God's blessings. (Good for both digestion and a good night's sleep.) Look for and remember God's blessings in all circumstances. "David praised

God for ruling justly over all the nations and for judging the world with righteousness. David thanked God personally for upholding his just cause."

Christians at times face serious afflictions, oppression, and injustice. This Psalm and other passages encourage us to turn to God and remember He is aware of all our needs! God knows the stresses, problems, and horrible circumstances His people face and endure. He has promised He will never abandon us and wants us to seek His help in troubled times. God will ultimately require a reckoning for injustice.

Praying to God vv. 13-20

God rescues. David often sang about his enemies in his prayers to God. The table in the presence of our enemies can be physical or spiritual (Ps. 23:5). For David, his enemies were national and individual... even his king and his own son! David shared his soul with God during victory and defeat. David and other Biblical writers give us encouragement and comfort today because of their honest expression of emotions. David trusts God and sings his feelings.

In the Septuagint (a translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek) Psalms 9 and 10 were together and probably separated to make Psalm 10 an individual complaint Psalm. Psalm 9 also has a complaint (v. 13), but the overall tone is thanksgiving and certainty of victory. "David saw in his personal victory a type of God's triumph in the last judgment" (9:19-20; Holman Bible Handbook).

"When we are confident that God will make right injustices suffered by His people, we can relinquish the need to seek revenge." Some wrongs will only ultimately be made right in eternity, even though we may feel with the Psalmist, "O Lord, God of vengeance, shine forth. (Ps. 94:1) Remember two other important "R" words: RELINQUISH REVENGE. Remember God's Word: "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord. (See Deut. 32:35; Hebrews 10:30-31). A tough lesson. Read Psalm 9 again. Leave judgment to our just God!

Caughman teaches the Bible and sings in two choirs at First Church, Magee.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

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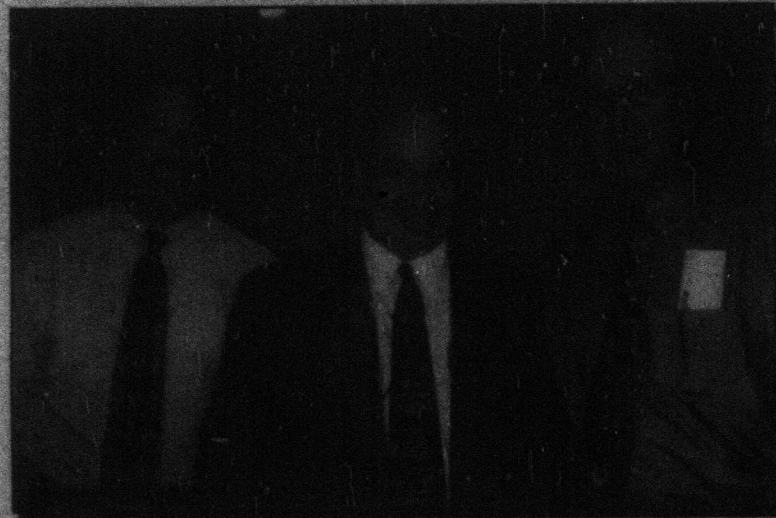
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THE BAPTIST
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



3. Highland Church, Meridian



4. Thornhill, Cook, and Patton



5. Batson and Abel



6. First Church, Morton

1. First Church, Grenada, women's ministry is hosting Dessert with Rita Sept. 29, 6:30 p.m. Rita Sweatt, speaker.

2. First Church, Collins, will have a lay ministry weekend to prepare Christians for ministry Sept. 11-13, beginning at 8 p.m. For more information, call (601) 765-6279.

3. Highland Church, Meridian, recently ordained five men as deacons. Front row: Walter Williamson, David Palmer; back row: Stan Williams, Keith Farmer, Robert Mitchell.

4. Don Cook, pastor of Parkway Church, Kosciusko, painted his hair and head pink as a result of Sunday School attendance reaching 100 or more for three consecutive Sundays. Shown are Jimmy Thornhill, Cook, and George Patton.

5. First Church, Wiggins, recently ordained Shep Batson as deacon. Shown are Batson and pastor Wiley Abel.

6. First Church, Morton, ordained Justin Martin as deacon Aug. 30. Shown are Earl Clark, Pat Martin, and Martin.

7. The Holmes County Association WMU leaders held a "princess party" in honor of pastor's wives in Lexington Aug. 29. Shown are guest speaker Margaret Lay, Traci Clardy, Kim Different, Margaret Barron, Geneva Holly, Virginia Nations, Janet Parker, and associational WMU director Terry Green.

8. The Women on Mission and the Make a Difference Sunday School class of First Church, Tupelo, prepared four buckets for the Baptist Global Response project for Africa. Shown are the participants praying for those who will receive the buckets.

9. Double Springs Church, Maben, recently ordained Kenneth Reaves and Jason Bridges as deacons. Shown are Martin Carden, Bud Reaves, Reaves, Bridges, interim pastor Joe Shurden, Milton Spotts, and Ray Pinnix.

10. The VBS children of First Church, Coldwater, recently presented Sue Parker of Life Choices, Southaven, with several baby bottles filled with cash and a check for \$233.32. Shown are the children, Sue Parker, and pastor Tim Smith.



7. Holmes Association princess party



8. First Church, Tupelo



9. Double Springs Church, Maben



10. First Church, Coldwater